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December 20, 2012

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Notice of Mediacom
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 and High-Cost
Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Dan Templin, President, Mediacom Telephony and Senior Vice President, Mediacom Communications (collectively, "Mediacom"), Tapan Dandnaik, Senior Vice President Customer Service and Financial Operations, Mediacom Communications Corporation and Anne Sokolin-Maimom, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Mediacom Communications, and John Heitmann of Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, met in separate meetings on December 18, 2012 with: (1) Priscilla Delgado Argeris, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel; (2) Michael Steffen, Legal Advisor to Chairman Genachowski and Heidi Lankau, Dania Ayoubi, Ryan Yates, Ian Forbes and Theodore Burmeister of the Wireline Competition Bureau; (3) Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Pai; (4) Christine Kurth, Policy Director and Wireline Counsel to Commissioner McDowell; and (5) Angela Kronenberg, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, to discuss Mediacom's success in deploying broadband to rural America and its views on several policy issues pertinent to the Connect America Fund ("CAF") proceeding.

In particular, Mediacom emphasized the extent of its privately funded broadband network and the speed of the broadband service offerings it brings to rural America. Mediacom illustrated how its deployment of fiber to cell towers has enabled it to bring fiber-based services to more rural communities and businesses, including previously unserved locations.

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Mediacom also discussed issues raised by the recent Further Notice on 2013 CAF Phase I funding, and asserted that the Further Notice presents an opportunity for the Commission to ensure that 2013 CAF Phase I funding be more efficiently distributed than in 2012. In particular, Mediacom expressed its support for a competitive bidding process for 2013 CAF Phase I funding and, at a minimum, the unclaimed 2012 CAF Phase I support. Mediacom explained that competitive bidding is how the wireless industry drives fiber deployment to cell towers and, as such, it is familiar to all industry players as a successful way of securing the most efficient builds leveraging the best scalable nearby networks (not always shown on the National Broadband Map),¹ as well as the willingness of successful bidders to adjust business models.

Mediacom also explained that over-subsidization can devalue current privately funded facilities investment and provide disincentives to future privately funded facilities investment.² Accordingly, Mediacom discussed the need for the Commission to adopt procedures, requirements and metrics to ensure CAF funds are used solely for the purpose of serving previously unserved locations. Further, Mediacom emphasized that there was no need for the Commission to increase the per location support amount set for CAF Phase I or to adopt a per fiber mile support proposal. Specifically, Mediacom urged the Commission to reject Windstream's proposal for middle mile support, as such facilities traverse served areas and are easily leveraged to serve adjacent served areas.³

Finally, Mediacom also encouraged the Commission to address barriers to entry presented by the eligible telecommunication carrier designation process.

¹ The Company explained that it would be participating in the Commission's proceeding to review the accuracy of data in the National Broadband Map and would be closely examining the Commission's list of unserved areas to ensure the list does not contain any areas served by Mediacom.

² See Letter to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission from John J. Heitmann, Counsel to Mediacom Communications, at 2, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109 (filed June 13, 2012).

³ See Opposition of Mediacom Telephony to Windstream's Election and Petition for Waiver, WC Dkt. Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Aug. 24, 2012); see also Letter to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission from Malena F. Barzilai, Windstream, at 2-3, WC Dkt. Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Sept. 27, 2012).

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This letter is being filed electronically pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Heitmann

Counsel to Mediacom Communications

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